



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

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Inside Wallops

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Goddard Selects Contractor Excellence Award Winners

Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) has selected three winners for the 1998 Goddard Contractor Excellence Award. The three winners are: Bristol Aerospace Limited, Winnipeg, Canada; Jackson and Tull, Aerospace Engineering Division, Seabrook, Md.; and Raytheon Support Services Company, Annapolis Junction, Md.

“The Contractor Excellence Award provides us with an opportunity to recognize those contractors who make a substantial contribution to the mission of Goddard and who are committed to the philosophy of continuous improvement as evidenced by their business practices,” said Judy Bruner, the chair of the GSFC Contractor Award evaluation committee.

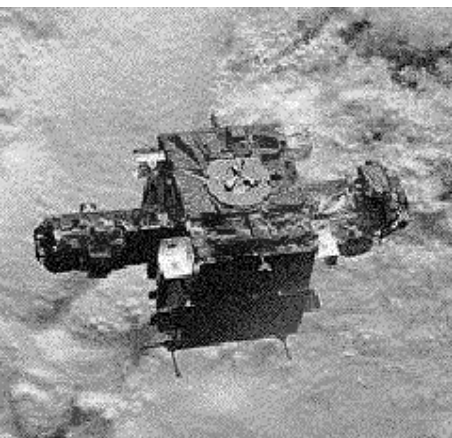
To be considered for the award, applicants are asked to provide evidence of meeting schedules, monitoring costs, quality and productivity improvements,

management commitment to continuous improvement, customer service satisfaction, human resource utilization and long term research and development.

The winners of this year’s award were chosen because of their outstanding continuous improvement efforts and contributions to Goddard’s mission.

The three winners of the Goddard award will automatically be sent forward to compete for the George M. Low Award, which is NASA’s Quality and Excellence Award. In addition, three other Goddard Contractor Excellence Award finalists will be forwarded for consideration for the NASA Agency prestigious award. The three companies are: CSC, System Sciences Division, Lanham-Seabrook, Md.; ITT Aerospace/Communications Division, Fort Wayne, Ind. and Swales Aerospace, Beltsville, Md.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1998 - From the Space Shuttle Discovery --



The SPARTAN satellite (left) was captured and returned to its berth successfully completing its two-day solar science mission. SPARTAN Mission Manager Craig Tooley congratulated the crew and flight control team on their performance in executing the mission exactly as planned. Tooley said that 30 percent of the science data already had been linked to the ground and the remainder would be off-loaded at landing. SPARTAN Scientist Dr. Richard Fisher noted that investigators were pleased to have the satellite in orbit near a solar maximum cycle and that its instruments had captured sought-after data on a solar mass ejection event.

Wallops Shorts.....

Sounding Rocket Launch

A Terrier-Black Brant sounding rocket was successfully launched and recovered from the White Sands Missile Range, NM on Nov. 2. On-board experiments performed coordinated observations with the Spartan 201-4 satellite, Trace Small Explorer satellite and the SNOE University Explorer satellite. Experiments also provided calibration of the coronal instruments on the SOHO spacecraft by direct comparison with the radiometrically calibrated solar EUV images and solar EUV irradiances from the solar rocket instruments. Dr. Donald Hassler of the Southwest Research Institute, Boulder, CO was the principal investigator, and Charlie Welch, Lockheed at White Sands was the payload manager.

School Visit

Debbie Parks, Real-Time Software Engineering Branch and Tony Goodyear, Public Affairs Office, did a solar system presentation for 3rd grade students at Broadwater Academy on Nov. 2.

NASA Awards \$90 Million Contract to Virginia Firm

NASA’s Ames Research Center has selected Logicon Syscon, Inc., Falls Church, VA, for award of a new six-year contract valued at \$90.8 million (including options) to provide technical services for the aeronautical simulation facilities at Ames.

Under the terms of the contract, Logicon will provide operations, development, maintenance and modification of the simulation laboratory facilities at Ames.

Included in the contract is the operation and maintenance of all Ames’ flight simulators, including the Vertical Motion Simulator (VMS) and the Crew-Vehicle Systems Research Facility (CVSRF). The VMS, the world’s largest motion-base simulator, was designed to aid in the study of helicopter and vertical/short take-off landing issues specifically relating to research in controls, guidance, displays, automation and handling qualities of existing or proposed aircraft.

The CVSRF, a unique national research resource, was designed for the study of human factors in aviation safety. It includes a Boeing 747-400 flight simulator, an advanced concepts flight simulator and a simulated air traffic control system. Both flight simulators are capable of full-mission simulation.

A Message To Wallops Employees

The aircraft accident on the runway recently should serve as a reminder to all of us that many of the things we do at Wallops carry with them an element of risk. Our highest priority in conducting any mission must be to understand and minimize those risks. While we have an outstanding Safety Office at Wallops, safety cannot be left just to the professionals—each of us must take personal responsibility for safety in conducting our jobs.

When, despite our best efforts, an accident does occur, we must take stock of our performance and learn the lessons that will prevent the occurrence of similar accidents in the future. This is underway.

I want to personally commend the numerous Wallops employees whose courage and professional behavior at the scene of this accident prevented its consequences from being far worse. Particular thanks are due the Wallops Fire Department, whose members were on the scene almost immediately. Particular thanks also are due those Photolab employees whose real-time documentation of the accident under hazardous conditions will prove invaluable in determining the cause of this accident and in establishing preventive measures for the future.

Arnold Torres

Autumn on the Eastern Shore

by Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

The weather during October was a nice transition to the fall season, as we move closer to the onset of Old Man Winter. The warmest day of the month was Oct. 1 when the afternoon high reached 84°. Temperatures gradually cooled after that, and the average monthly temperature was 59°. The coolest day of the month was on Oct. 30, when the early morning low reached 37°. Temperatures remained pretty much in the normal range throughout the month. No new record highs or lows were set.

With only 1.89 inches of rainfall recorded, October continued the dry trend that has been experienced along the Mid-Atlantic coast. We received more than an inch below our normal average rainfall of 2.92 inches. The end of the month was especially dry. We only had .01 inch of rainfall from Oct. 13 through the end of the month.

Average temperatures during December generally prepare us for the onset of winter's chill. Highs usually average in the low 50's at the beginning of the month, falling to the upper 40's by the end of the month. Low temperatures for the month usually start out in the mid 30's and by the new year are usually in the upper 20's to around 30°. The coldest temperature on record for December is the 4° reading we reached on Dec. 21, 1989.

Besides bringing the first day of winter (Dec. 21), Santa and all the Christmas hoopla, December also brings the first significant chance of getting measurable snowfall. We average nine days with measurable precipitation during the month with one of those days usually bringing measurable snowfall. Precipitation averages 3.19 inches and snowfall averages 1.4 inches for the month.

Hopefully everyone has gotten their heating source checked, their autos winterized and their fireplaces swept for Santa's imminent arrival. Winter weather is not far off. Don't be lulled into thinking we will experience another mild winter this year. While we only had a dusting of snow last year, our long-term average is 8.4 inches per year. This winter we may just make up for last year's deficit.



Veterans Day
is observed
November 11

Upcoming Training

Introduction to Web Publishing With HTML

(16 hours - Two 8-hour sessions)

This course prepares you to create and publish HTML pages. Topics range from basic Internet and server theory to hands-on practice writing HTML pages. Students will create customized web pages. The following topics will be covered: Web site basics, site planning and story boarding; making your site easy to find; HTML basics, titles, headings and paragraphs; formatting Web pages; links, paths and directory structures; using HotDog Pro, the leading HTML editor; HTML formatting, back-grounds, and colors; and converting existing documents from the web. Students should be proficient in using Windows and "Introduction to the Internet" or comparable experience.

This course will be offered on-site at Greenbelt on Nov. 18-19 and is Directorate funded with a cost of \$325 per participant. For further information, contact Sherry Kleckner, x1204.

Thrift Savings Plan Open Season

TSP Open Season begins Nov. 15, 1998 and continues through Jan. 31, 1999. For further information contact the Office of Human Resources, x1151. Information is also available on the OHR homepage in the Benefits section: <http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov>

Car Pool Wanted

Anyone living in or around Ocean Pines interested in forming a car pool is asked to contact Chuck Conners, Bldg. F-10, x1781.

For Sale

1976 Seafarer 34-foot sailboat with 56 inch draft. Launched in 1977 and completely refurbished and re-outfitted in 1988. Extensive inventory, complete electronics. Fantastic Bay cruising vessel. Partnership dissolving. Currently in dry-dock in Allen, MD. \$25,000 for immediate sale. Call for complete inventory (410) 742-0138 or (410) 213-2292.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Arthur Leonard Moore** who died Oct. 31 in Peninsula Regional Medical Center.

After 35 years, Moore retired from Wallops in January 1986 as an aerospace engineering technician. His wife of 46 years, died Sept. 20, 1998.

Request for Nominations

Now is your chance to nominate someone as the Wallops Exchange and Morale Association (WEMA), Morale Activities Committee (MAC), Volunteer of the Year. The winner will be announced at the annual Wallops Awards Ceremony to be held in December. Gerry McIntire was the 1997 Volunteer of the Year.

The nominee must be a member of the WEMA who has devoted much time and effort to the promotion of employee morale at the Wallops Flight Facility.

Time and time again, you see the same people volunteering to do things. The same people always go that "extra mile" to enable other people to enjoy themselves. Those volunteers organize picnics, parties, games, educational activities and field trips. They cook, decorate, organize, fix stuff up, move and haul things, and promote goodwill without complaining. They are the heart and soul of Wallops. The ones you don't hesitate to call.

Don't forget those individuals who may be acting in an official capacity but are always willing to go above and beyond their official duties to accommodate the work requested; i.e. an employee from the Paint Shop or the Carpenter Shop, a material handler, a work leader or a mover.

Send your nomination by Nov. 13 to Terry Ewell, Bldg. F-7 or by e-mail to: terry.ann.ewell.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

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